

From: Susan Todd-Scott, Senate Bill 1252, March 5, 2007

My name is Susan Todd-Scott. I reside in East Berlin, Conn. I have used chiropractic care since 1990 to get relief from painful injuries. I have been the victim of three automobile accidents and several falls that have left me in severe pain. During the last 17 years dedicated and caring Doctors of Chiropractic have given me the very best of care. Whenever I have seen my primary care physician after an incident, the only treatment offered was prescription pain killers. I refuse to take them because I have seen friends become addicted to prescription pain drugs.

Because of the accidents and falls I have had I periodically suffer from headaches, sciatica, and back pain. Some days it is difficult to get out of bed and to go to work. The headaches often affect my concentration, memory, and ability to work. Since I was the sole provider for myself and my sons, work was a necessity not a choice.

Before starting treatment with my chiropractor, Dr. Gina Carucci, we discussed my injuries and symptoms in detail. After an examination of my injuries and an x-ray series, she suggested a course of care consisting of spinal manipulations and soft tissue treatment for my neck, hip, and spine. Dr. Carucci has always been upfront with me on everything; and I have always consented to all treatments as is evidenced in my signed Informed Consent Form. The outstanding care and the healing benefits I have received from chiropractic care through the most painful experiences of my life greatly outweigh any risks discussed.

Over the years Chiropractic Care has allowed me to reap the joys of raising my sons, to spend quality time with my grandsons and friends, and to be a productive employee. Chiropractic works - It has worked for me. I have a full life because of it. Because of the care I receive, I am able to look forward to a life without severe pain or the use of drugs. I strongly feel individuals need to be their own health advocate and be given the opportunity to choose what form of healthcare they wish to utilize.

For these reasons I take great exception to Senate Bill 1252. This bill infers that Doctors of Chiropractic do not discuss their procedures prior to treating their patients. I don't believe that's accurate. It certainly has not been my experience with Dr. Carucci and the other dedicated chiropractors I have been treated by. Every medical procedure carries a risk. I realize that. But the risk of a stroke due to these types of manipulations is so slight - 1 in 3,000,000 - that I am willing to take that chance. I would not enjoy anything approaching a quality life without these treatments.

Senate Bill 1252 is not fair. It singles out chiropractors in requiring written informed consent by law. Why just Doctors of Chiropractic? Why not all doctors? If you want to do this, then you should require every medical professional in this state to also provide informed consent. Singling out one profession is wrong. And, I think you know that. Thank you for listening to my story. I would ask that you not pass this bill.

Informed Consent

State law requires our office to obtain your informed consent prior to examination and treatment. The purpose of this form is to inform you, not alarm you. What you are being asked to sign is simply a confirmation that you have been informed of the following:

EXAMINATIONS

X-rays/MRI's/Bone Scans: This office does not take X-rays/MRI's/Bone Scans, however if they are necessary, we will refer you to the most convenient facility.

TREATMENT

Chiropractic adjustment/manipulation: the doctor will use his/her hands or a mechanical device upon your body in such a way as to move your joints in various directions. This procedure may cause an audible "pop" or "click" to be heard coming from your joints, which is not cause for alarm. There are some material risks involved in doing these procedures and they are as follows:

Pain: Chiropractic treatments may result in a temporary increase in soreness in the area receiving treatment.

Rib Fractures: Fractures caused by chiropractic treatments are rare. They occur most frequently in patients with osteoporosis or weakened bones. Evidence of osteoporosis can be noted on your x-rays, and if detected, the most appropriate gentle treatments are used, minimizing the possibility of fractures to the ribs.

Disc Injury: Chiropractic treatment is appropriate for the treatment of many kinds of back problems, including some disc problems (1). Occasionally, chiropractic treatment may aggravate or cause a problem if the disc is in a severely weakened state. However, this occurs so rarely that statistics to quantify the probability are unavailable, but estimates place the risks of serious injury at about 1 serious complication per 100 million low back manipulations (2).

Stroke: The overall incidence of stroke in the general population is about 2 per 1000 (3).

Although chiropractic adjustment/manipulation has been implicated as a possible cause of stroke, this possibility is extremely rare. The best available data suggests that stroke secondary to chiropractic adjustment/ manipulation may occur in 1 per 100,000 patients (4) – a rate well below the overall average risk in the general population. In comparison, the overall average risk of death from taking non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (aspirin, Ibuprofen, Naproxen Sodium, etc.) is 4 per 10,000 patients (5). The risk of serious complication or death from spine surgeries of the neck is 11.25 per 1000 patients (5). As you can see, the risk of stroke from chiropractic treatments is much lower than other common medical treatments.

Even though the risk is small, we have implemented procedures and tests that will likely reduce the potential for stroke even more.

Chiropractic is a system of health care delivery. As with any health care delivery system we cannot promise a cure for any symptom, disease, or condition as a result of treatment in this office. We will always give you our best care, and if your results are not acceptable, we will refer you to another health care provider who we feel will assist your situation.

If you have any questions on the above information, please ask your doctor. When you have a full understanding, please sign and date on the back of this form.

I HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE MOST LIKELY COMPLICATIONS OF THE POSSIBLE UNDESIRE RESULTS OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINATION AND TREATMENT IN THIS OFFICE AND I UNDERSTAND THEM.

I hereby authorize Dr. Carucci and her associates or assistants to provide such additional services as they may deem reasonable and necessary.

I HEREBY STATE THAT I HAVE READ OR HAVE HAD SOMEONE READ TO ME THIS CONSENT FORM.

Patient's Signature Susan - Marie Todd 8/20/14 Date: 9/29/06
Patient's Printed Signature: Susan - Marie Todd 8/20/14 Date: 9/29/06
Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____
Guardian's Printed Signature: _____ Date: _____
Witness' Signature: [Signature] Date: 9/29/06
Witness' Printed Signature: _____ Date: _____

REFERENCES

1. Troyanovich SJ, Harrison DD, Harrison DE. Lo back pain and the lumbar intervertebral disc: Clinical considerations for the doctor of chiropractic. *J Manipulative Physiol Ther* 1999; 22 (2): 96-104.
2. Shekelle PG, Spine Update: Spinal manipulation, *Spine* 1994; 19: 858-861
3. Clayman CB. *The American Medical Association Home Medical Encyclopedia*. New York: Random House; 1989: 947-948
4. Dabbs V, Lauretti WJ. Risk Assessment of Cervical Manipulation vs. NSAIDS for the treatment of neck pain. *J Manipulative Physiol Ther* 1995; 18: 530-536
5. Harwitz El, Aker PD, Adams AH, Meeker WC, Shekelle PG. Manipulation and mobilization of the cervical spine: A systematic review of the literature, *Spine* 1996; 21: 1746-1760

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